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OLC 74-0674

11 April 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Informal Discussion with the Intelligence Operations
Subcommittee of Senate Appropriations - 10 April 1974

1. The Director met with the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee of Senate Appropriations Committee for an informal discussion regarding release of intelligence community budget figures and general problems the Agency is having. A technical sweep of the room, 1223 Dirksen Office Building, was conducted and the room was kept under technical monitoring throughout. Discussions were at a Secret level. No transcript was taken.

2. Present from the Subcommittee were:

John L. McClellan (D., Ark.), Chairman
John O. Pastore (D., R.I.)
Milton R. Young (R., N.Dak.)
Roman L. Hruska (R., Neb.)

3. Also present as invitees were:

William Proxmire (D., Wis.)
Alan Cranston (D., Calif.)

4. Present from the staff were:

James Calloway
Guy McConnell

5. Accompanying the Director was:

George L. Cary, Legislative Counsel

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6. The session began with an informal discussion of the feasibility of disclosing portions of the intelligence community budget at which Senators Proxmire and Cranston were invitees. The Director stated his position in opposition to the disclosure of either the individual agencies budgets or the total figure for the entire intelligence community. In the discussion that followed most of the members of the Subcommittee seemed to agree that the individual agencies figures should not be disclosed and the concensus seemed to be against disclosure of the total intelligence community figure as well but there was no final decision on either of these issues.

7. The Director then said he was prepared to respond to the Chairman's request that he discuss various problem areas within the Agency. Chairman McClellan said that what he really wanted to talk about was the recent investigation of CIA conducted by Senator Howard Baker. He said he was not sure whether this was done with authority and then commented that while Baker had offered him a copy of his report of his investigation, he (McClellan) had taken the position that if he received anything he wanted the transcripts of the investigation and not somebody's report of what happened. The Director proceeded to recap our dealings with Baker and his staff, pointing out that 26 Agency witnesses had been questioned and all questions pertinent to Baker's inquiry had been answered except that he (the Director) had refused to comply with broad requests such as the Senator's demand for information on all Agency activities [redacted] during 25X1 1972. He said in such instances he had asked for a bill of particulars and this was a matter which was still up in the air.

8. The Director reviewed the McCord/Pennington matter and the inquiry which Senator Baker and his staff made into the Agency's tapes of certain telephone calls and meetings.

9. When it became necessary for the Chairman to terminate the meeting, he said he would like to have the Director back again "sometime soon" to discuss matters further. The Director said he had a collection of a number of "skeletons" i. e., things the Agency had done which might have been or appear to have been questionable (some of which have since been discontinued) and he was prepared to discuss this at anytime with the Subcommittee.

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